Medway Historical Ordnance

Purpose and Design Statement

Chatham Defence Lines Heritage Trail

MC 2008/0055

Purpose

The applicant Medway Historical Ordnance (MHO) propose to establish a Heritage Trail, the route of which will pass through places of interest and locations of historic military significance in the history and defence of Chatham's military installations.

This will involve the installation of theme boards at appropriate locations illustrating the locations significance by means of text, diagrams and reproduction of photographs – many original and relating to specific locations.

The proposal has been well received by others including English Heritage Medway Council and the Fort Amhurst Trust and has achieved support from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Design

Factors considered in the design of the information boards and enclosures have included the budget available, materials to be used, durability, likely maintenance and repair and replacement implications. The latter ideally managed by MHO in-house resources and reprinting costs of posters, if required, kept at a reasonable cost.

Following inspection of a number of information point enclosure locations around North Kent one in particular stood out as been presentable, durable, and easily maintained. MHO have decided to adopted this approach

The design is illustrated and described by sheet 5 attached to the planning application. The vertical mounting also appears to discourage condensation and water logging.

This type of construction could be said to be tried and tested and has been used on a Maritime Trail throughout Kent and Sussex. Examples can be seen at St Georges Church and St Andrews Chapel embankment in Gravesend, Riverside Gillingham and in the Whitstable area.

Based on an anticipated life span of 5-10 years we consider this type of enclosure well suited for MHO resources and in-house skills.

The sign will comprise of a printed image on vinyl backed by a GRP board or similar inert material protected by a polycarbonate sheet and all housed within the rebate of the front hinged frame of the sign enclosure as illustrated in sheet 5 of 5 of the drawings.

Sign and Themes

Each sign will have an image size of 975x680. The heritage route will be placed in the bottom RH corner and the sign number together with the theme title will be in the top LH corner. A descriptive text will be placed to the LH side. The remaining area will be taken up by photos, with captions, diagrams and drawings etc appropriate to the theme.

The board theme titles are as follows-

Sign 1, General Explanation Board, Sign 2, Ordnance Wharf, Sign 3, Royal Marines, Sign 4, Chatham Barracks, Sign 5, Fort Amherst, Sign 6, Anti Invasion Defences,

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Sign 7, Sally Port, Sign 8, Royal Engineers, Sign 9, Lower Lines, Sign 10, Siege Operations, Sign 11, Chatham Lines, Sign 12, Great Lines in Context, Sign 13, Lower and Upper Barriers, Sign14, Anti Aircraft Defence.

Note.
Attachments accompanying this statement include:
Location plan of information boards
Photographic views of proposed locations
Details of sign enclosure
Two photographs of mock-up for printer for theme boards no's 3 & 6.

Rev. 08/01/08 IJ